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Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women*

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Fifth Committee, by its decision contained in document A/58/649, decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 (subsequently resolution 58/244), an amount of $234,700 would be set aside in the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005 to provide the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) with complementary funds, if needed, and requested the Secretary-General to indicate to the General Assembly at its second resumed fifty-eighth session whether those resources would be required. At the beginning of the second resumed fifty-eighth session, it was determined, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, that there was no immediate need for additional resources.

It is anticipated that the resources currently available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund will allow the operations of the Institute to continue until the end of 2004 with a projected closing balance of $23,717. It is also estimated that $1,183,760 would be required to sustain the Institute's operations in 2005.

* The submission of the present report has been timed to reflect the latest available information for assessing the financial situation of INSTRAW.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 58/244 of 23 December 2003 on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to continue to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to provide funds complementary to the existing ones, if needed, to ensure that the Institute would have adequate resources to function for a period of one year.

2. Before adoption of the aforementioned resolution, the Fifth Committee, by its decision contained in document A/58/649, decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/58/L.36 (subsequently resolution 58/244), an amount of $234,700 would be set aside in the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005 to provide INSTRAW with complementary funds, if needed. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to indicate to the Assembly at its second resumed fifty-eighth session whether those resources would be required.

3. At the beginning of the second resumed fifty-eighth session, upon review of the financial situation of the Institute, it was determined, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, that there was no immediate need for additional resources to be provided by the General Assembly to INSTRAW. Under the circumstances, the present report on the financial situation of the Institute is submitted to the current session of the Assembly.

II. Financial situation of the Institute

4. It was anticipated in the statement of programme budget implications of resolution 58/244 (A/C.5/58/24) that the estimated INSTRAW Trust Fund balance would amount to $735,600 as at 31 December 2003 and that those resources would be sufficient for financing INSTRAW operations, including the salaries of nine staff (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 2 P-2 or P-1 and 5 General Service) and related operating expenses through September 2004, and that an additional amount of $234,700 would be required to maintain the Institute to the end of 2004.

5. Since a number of additional voluntary contributions were received in December 2003 and the Institute's expenditures in November-December 2003 remained lower than anticipated, the available balance of the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 31 December 2003 amounted to $843,417.

6. During the United Nations pledging conference for development activities held in New York on 4 November 2003, an amount of $4,788 was pledged to the INSTRAW Trust Fund for 2004. As at 30 September 2004, the total unpaid pledges to the INSTRAW Trust Fund amounted to $49,757.

7. For the period 1 January to 30 September 2004, additional income received in the Trust Fund amounted to $109,100, comprising voluntary contributions of $101,706 and miscellaneous income of $7,394.

8. While a new Director of the Institute and one P-3 staff member have been appointed since 1 December 2003, one P-2/1 post and one General Service post were only filled in June 2004. Since then, the Institute has had its complement of nine staff (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 2 P-2/1 and 5 General Service). Expenditures incurred

during the period 1 January-30 September 2004 and projected requirements for the period 1 October-31 December 2004 by budget line are shown in table 1 below.

Table 1
Expenditures of the Institute for January-September 2004 and projected requirements for October-December 2004
(United States dollars)

	January-September 2004	*October-December 2004*
Staff and other personnel costs	348 708	164 542
Consultants and experts	87 040	22 960
Travel	80 958	31 542
Contractual services	24 203	9 697
Operating expenses	28 961	31 239
Acquisitions	52 679	10 521
Other expenses	15 548	20 202
Total	**638 097**	**290 703**

9. The INSTRAW Trust Fund balance as at 30 September 2004 is estimated at $314,420. It is anticipated that expenditures for the period October through December 2004 would amount to $290,703. As before, these estimates, including staff salaries, are calculated on the basis of full incumbency of the existing nine posts and the related operating expenses for the period January-December 2004, taking into account savings resulting from two posts (1 P-2/1 and 1 General Service) being vacant until 31 May 2004. On this basis, the projected closing balance as at 31 December 2004 would amount to $23,717, as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2
Estimated financial situation of the Institute in 2004
(United States dollars)

Opening balance	843 417
Income received	
Government contributions	101 706
Miscellaneous income	7 394
Subtotal	**109 100**
Total income	**952 517**
Expenditures (January-September)	(638 097)
Fund balance as at 30 September	314 420
Projected cost of operations (October-December)	(290 703)
Projected surplus (deficit) as at 31 December	23 717
Projected closing balance	**23 717**

10. Accordingly, it is estimated at this stage that the Institute would have adequate resources to function until the end of 2004 and no complementary funds would be required in this regard.

11. In the proposed operational budget for the year 2005, submitted to the Executive Board at its resumed session on 1 October 2004, INSTRAW estimated the 2005 core requirements at $1,183,760. As matters stand at this point, funds have neither been pledged nor received to finance operations in 2005. Under the circumstances, the General Assembly will need to consider the future viability of the Institute.

III. Conclusion

12. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the financial situation of INSTRAW and take such action as it deems to be appropriate.**